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Wall Street Lawyer Named To Head Foreign Aid Agency

By WILLIAM KNIGHTON, JR.
[Washington Bureau of THE Sun]

Washington, Sept. 20—President Kennedy, today named Fowler Hamilton, Wall Street international lawyer, to head the new foreign aid program.

The new program is to be operated by the Agency for International Development Aid which has been set up by Henry Richardson La Bouisse, currently director of the International Cooperation Administration, and therefore now administering the aid program.

"In Highest Tradition"

The White House announcement of Hamilton's appointment, along with a letter from the President highly praising La Bouisse for his work, ended several weeks of speculation concerning who would get the aid post. However, it did not end the speculation as to who is to fill the directorship of the Central Intelligence Agency when Allen Dulles retires this fall.

For many months it was felt

with some certainty that the present foreign aid director would take over the new agency, since he has been the moving spirit in streamlining the program along the lines President Kennedy wanted.

In fact, Mr. Kennedy, in a letter today to "Dear Harry," noted that "your work in transforming our new aid concepts into what has justifiably been called 'the best aid legislation in years' and a streamlined administrative structure has been in the highest tradition of public service."

His administration of foreign aid as head of ICA also has made him a favorite of many important members of Congress. Few of his predecessors reached such heights. However, about ten days ago word was leaked that La Bouisse would not be appointed to run the new agency, because Administra-

Dixon-Yates TVA contract which the Government later canceled because of conflict of interest.

Pierre Salinger, the President's press secretary, conceded today that Woods was under consideration for the post, but only as "one of a number." Under questioning, he further stated:

"Mr. Woods last week asked that his name be withdrawn from any consideration for the job."

Asked why? Salinger continued: "I think he felt that some of the statements made in connection with his prospects for the appointment would have made it difficult for him to serve, had he been chosen."

Opposed By Kefauver
At the same time the name of George D. Woods, New York financier, was mentioned, in the form of a trial balloon, as the man who would head the new aid agency.

Senator Kefauver (D., Tenn.) and other advocates of public power announced with some heat they would fight his nomination. Their reason: Woods is chairman of the board of the first Boston Corporation, which was heavily involved in the controversial with his prospects for the appointment would have made it difficult for him to serve, had he been chosen.

In the few days during which it appeared that Woods would receive the aid appointment by the President, word got around that Fowler Hamilton was being considered for the CIA post on Dulles's retirement.

But with Woods out of the picture, the President today sent Hamilton's name to the Senate for confirmation as the foreign assistance chief.

Kefauver warmly endorsed the new appointment.

La Bouisse, besides receiving a nice letter from the President will get another job in the Administration. Salinger would not say at this time what it would be, but he ruled out the agency he has reorganized for the President.

Effort Appreciated
Mr. Kennedy's letter to La

Bouisse, except for the sentence previously quoted, follows:

"As we move into a new stage in our effort to put forward an effective foreign assistance program, I want to take this opportunity to tell you how deeply I appreciate your most successful effort in reorganizing the aid agency....

"This, I know, has been a most difficult task, and I am grateful for your effort in bringing to a successful conclusion this crucial stage in effectuation of the new aid concepts.

"I am pleased that you will continue to serve the Administration in another high executive post."

The law firm of which Hamilton now is senior partner has offices in Paris and Brussels as well as at 52 Wall Street.

The White House announcement of his selection states that since the end of World War II, more than half of his legal activity has been in the field of international law, and he has made an average of two trips per year to Western Europe, Latin America or Africa since then "in the course of negotiating business arrangements between American and foreign firms or handling other international and legal matters."